



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS ILLEGAL ALIEN WANTED FOR HOMICIDE IN HONDURAS

Multi-agency, international cooperation led to his arrest and deportation

OMAHA, Neb.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers here deported an illegal alien to Honduras today who is wanted for homicide by Honduran authorities.

Wilmer Noel Maldonado-Lainez, 26, of Honduras, shot a man in the head during an altercation over a cigarette, according to an arrest warrant issued by Honduran police.

He subsequently paid \$1,500 to be smuggled into the United States and had been living illegally in Lexington, Neb., under the name Francisco Chavarria. The Lexington Police Department arrested Maldonado-Lainez Feb. 8 for making terroristic threats against a Lexington resident.



“Maldonado-Lainez believed he could escape justice by fleeing to the United States, but he was wrong,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge George Bailey of the North Platte ICE office. “This is an outstanding example of how cooperation among law enforcement agencies both here and abroad can result in safer communities.”

The Lexington Police Department received confirmation that Maldonado-Lainez was wanted by Honduran authorities from both the FBI in North Platte and the Miami Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, whose inspectors had recently been in Honduras conducting a separate investigation. Lexington Police also contacted special agents in the North Platte ICE office, who placed a “detainer” on Maldonado-Lainez so that ICE would be notified before he was released from police custody.

U.S. authorities considered formally extraditing Maldonado-Lainez to Honduras, but because that process can be lengthy, deportation was chosen as the method to remove him. A federal immigration judge ordered Maldonado-Lainez removed to Honduras March 3.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal agents removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes: Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as: drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Maldonado-Lainez, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov. If you received this news release via e-mail, you may electronically copy the embedded JPEG image for print or broadcast use.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.